

NOVA SCOTIA ACTION PLAN ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

**Response to the Recommendation of the
National Task Force on Environment and Economy**

91-00587/

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FOREWORD

This document has been prepared by an interdepartmental committee at the request of the Deputy Ministers' Land Use Policy Committee. It follows from the Report of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy released in September 1987, and focuses on the provincial government's efforts to respond to the National Task Force Report. Comments have been received from provincial departments and from the private sector through Voluntary Planning and the Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Economy.

Interdepartmental Environment and Economy Committee Membership:

- C. Brisco, Environment, Co-chairman
 - R. Shaffner, Industry Trade and Technology, Co-chairman
 - J. Goit, Agriculture and Marketing
 - N. McInnis-Leek, Mines and Energy
 - J. Mersereau, Municipal Affairs
 - R. Spares, Transportation
 - K. McNutt, Tourism and Culture
 - L. Macleod, Fisheries
 - J. Stone, Education
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I. INTRODUCTION

"Our report ...is not a prediction of ever increasing environmental decay, poverty, and hardship in an ever more polluted world among ever decreasing resources. We see instead the possibility for a new era of economic growth, one that must be based on policies that sustain and expand the environmental resource base."

Our Common Future: World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987.

There is a growing realization on the part of governments, international institutions, and the public at large, that many forms of development have seriously eroded the environmental resources upon which they are based and that, as a consequence, opportunities for future growth and prosperity are being foreclosed. In the extreme, man-induced changes in our environment such as the depletion of the ozone layer and global warming raise crucial questions of planetary survival.

Our Common Future, the report of the World Commission and Development (commonly referred to as the Brundtland Commission), stresses the fact that ecology and economy have become interwoven into a "seamless net of causes and effects". Contrary, however, to the "no economic growth" solution to environmental degradation espoused in the sixties and seventies, the Brundtland Commission argues that economic growth is necessary to create the capacity to solve environmental problems. The urgent message in *Our Common Future* is this: economic development should not be stopped, rather the basis of growth should be shifted from the over-exploitation of resources to growth based on the principle sustainable development.

The call for sustainable development has been strongly endorsed by Canadians. In taking up the challenge issued by the Brundtland Commission, Canada has embarked upon a course of action that promises to bring about a fundamental reorientation of the policies and decision-making processes that currently shape economic development throughout the nation. The strategy for this national effort has been prepared by the National Task Force on Environment and Economy.

It was established in October 1986 by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)*, the National Task Force on Environment and Economy was

directed to develop a Canadian framework to "foster and promote environmentally sound economic development". The National Task Force was comprised of five Ministers of the Environment (including the Minister of the Environment for Nova Scotia), seven executive officers from industry, and representatives from environmental organizations and academia. Their report was unanimously endorsed by CCREM and subsequently accepted in principle by the First Ministers of November 27, 1987.

Sustainable development, as defined by the National Task Force, is development that ensures that utilization of resources and the environment today does not damage prospects for their use by future generations. The National Task Force Report strongly supports the principle of sustainable development enunciated by the Brundtland Commission. It provides 40 wide-ranging recommendations aimed at encouraging government and industry to adopt policies to promote the greater integration of environmental and economic decision-making. The report concludes with the recommendation that each province, territory and the federal government develop an action plan showing how it proposes to implement the National Task Force Report.

The Province of Nova Scotia supports the National Task Force Report and is committed to working toward its incorporation into economic and environmental decision-making within both the public and private sectors. This document has been prepared in direct response to the National Task Force request for an action plan from each provincial government. In presenting a plan to integrate environment and economy decisions within Nova Scotia, the document stresses line department responsibilities and opportunities to build environmental considerations into existing decision-making structures. As such, it represents a framework for action by the provincial government.

The National Task Force also calls for a full partnership of government, industry, non-government organizations and the general public. It is hoped that this Action Plan will be complemented by private sector initiatives — industry and non-government organizations — to respond to the National Task Force Report. The Province of Nova Scotia will encourage and co-operate with these efforts to integrate environmental considerations into economic activities throughout Nova Scotia.

*Name recently changed to Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). However, for the purpose of this document, the previous name and acronym (CCREM) are used.

II. ACTION PLAN FOCUS

In responding to the report of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy, the Province of Nova Scotia is embarking on a new era of decision-making that will bring about a more explicit integration of environmental considerations with economic development and resource management, policy formulation and program delivery. The Action Plan focuses on three principles:

- increased emphasis upon a proactive approach to environmental management
- active private sector participation in government policy formulation and selection of options for the future
- support for the goal of sustainable economic development

Consistent with these principles, specific items have been identified that promote the integration of environmental considerations with economic development, particularly

with respect to our renewable and non-renewable resources.

Five chapter headings are defined by the National Task Force Report that call for direct action by provincial governments: **Informed Decision-making, Leadership, Round Tables, Conservation Strategies, and Communications and Education.**

The Nova Scotia Action Plan responds to each recommendation, within these five subject areas directed to the provincial level of government. This response includes both existing processes and programs that support the concept of sustainable development, as well as new initiatives, which the government will introduce to further integrate environment and economy decision-making.

Certain recommendations of the National Task Force were not considered appropriate for a response from the Province of Nova Scotia. These concern recommendations directed specifically toward industry or the federal government.

III. INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

National Task Force Recommendation 1.1

Government, industry, academic and other non-government organizations should develop new tools and improve existing tools which achieve more efficient and effective environment-economy integration. These tools should include consideration of, and where appropriate, application of:

- **Analytical methodologies and techniques such as cost-benefit analysis, risk assessment, and increased use of environmental impact assessment.**

Better informed decision-making on the part of governments, businesses and individuals requires better information. Accordingly the Province recognizes that efforts must be taken to develop improved techniques for evaluating the immediate long-term environmental benefits and costs associated with economic development options.

To this end, the Province of Nova Scotia has recently passed an Environmental Assessment Act that will strengthen the Province's ability to ensure that environmental considerations are reflected in major development proposals. Regulations under this Act provide for the consistent review and analysis of all major development projects deemed by the Minister of Environment to offer a potential for significant impact upon the environment. This process will assess the developer's statements of the socio-economic and environmental impacts of the project and will provide for greater community input into the economic development decisions.

- **Economic mechanisms such as contaminant charge schemes, tradeable emission/discharge rights, financial assurance and performance deposits, investment tax credits, credits for exceeding environmental standards, and reduced interest bonds**

It is expected such economic mechanisms will be examined during the preparation of a Nova Scotia conservation strategy.

- **Information generation and reporting systems such as state of the environment reporting.**

The Province of Nova Scotia recognizes the need to

monitor environmental issues throughout Nova Scotia and several other departments are currently involved in monitoring environmental conditions. The Province will ask the Round Table on Environment and Economy to consider options to broaden existing monitoring efforts and to ensure that information on the state of the environment in Nova Scotia is available to the public.

In 1989, the first conference on the Nova Scotia environment under the co-sponsorship of Voluntary Planning and the Department of the Environment was held. A regular conference of this nature could provide a mechanism to track major changes in the natural resource base and environment of Nova Scotia and to provide that information to the public.

- **Economic incentives which promote effective environmental protection by business.**

The role of economic incentives as an environmental protection tool is currently being assessed by Voluntary Planning's Committee on Environment and Economy. The recommendation emerging from this private sector effort will be considered for implementation through the Nova Scotia conservation strategy.

- **Improved techniques for the valuation of environmental stresses and the benefits of environmental protection.**

This need for improved tools is not unique to Nova Scotia. The Province of Nova Scotia keeps informed of research techniques and tools developed in other jurisdictions through its support for such forums as the CCREM. To contribute to the national effort, the Province of Nova Scotia will direct its economic, environmental and resource departments, through the Deputy Ministers' Land Use Policy Committee, to explore opportunities to develop improved methods of reflecting environmental considerations in standard economic analysis.

National Task Force Recommendation 1.2

Government, industry and non-government organizations should use multipartite processes to deal with specific issues, projects or programs.

The Province of Nova Scotia has traditionally demonstrated a strong commitment to public involvement in legislation, program and policy development. Examples include the White Paper on Economic Development; the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks policy papers and supporting legislation; the Environment Minister's Task Force Report on Hazardous Waste Management; and, most recently, the Halifax Harbour Clean-up Review Committee. A wide range of multipartite standing committees have also been established to review the ongoing programs and activities of provincial departments of government such as the Aquaculture Coordinating Committee and the Wildlife Advisory Council.

The Province of Nova Scotia will continue this practice of requiring provincial agencies to consult with individuals and groups outside the provincial government through legislated and non-legislated multipartite vehicles. As a further example of this commitment, the government intends to undertake an extensive program of public involvement throughout the preparation of a Nova Scotia conservation strategy.

National Task Force Recommendation 1.3

Various jurisdictions and economic research organizations, such as the Economic Council of Canada, should explore opportunities and pricing mechanisms for promoting efficient resource utilization and environmental quality.

The Province recognizes that Nova Scotia's natural resources provide the foundation for much of our economy and has taken steps to encourage their rational utilization. The Forestry Policy for Nova Scotia, for example, expressed an explicit commitment to stimulate the further development of harvesting residues and waste wood for energy purposes.

Efficient management of Nova Scotia's resources is a shared responsibility of government and the resource-based industries. The Province of Nova Scotia will request the Voluntary Planning Committee on Environment and Economy to examine additional opportunities for private sector-government cooperative action to promote the more efficient utilization of Nova Scotia's renewable resource base.

National Task Force Recommendation 1.4

A system for measuring the contribution of the environment sector, including natural resources, to the national economy and national wealth should be developed, drawing upon the work of existing organizations (e.g., the Economic Council of Canada, Statistics Canada).

The Province of Nova Scotia will provide staff resources in support of national efforts to develop improved ways to measure the environment's contribution to economic wealth.

Support for work on one component of this statistical base has already been provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Industry Trade and Technology. The department contributed to funding of a recent study on the provincial environmental industries sector. Following this initiative, the Province and Voluntary Planning will prepare a strategy for developing this sector in Nova Scotia.

National Task Force Recommendation 1.5

Greater resources must be dedicated to cooperative research and the development of common data bases by governments and industry.

The Province of Nova Scotia will encourage development of common data bases by government, industry, and universities. This commitment is reflected in projects such as the Bay of Fundy-Gulf of Maine-George's Bank Study currently underway. The private sector as well as federal and provincial government agencies have jointly provided funding to develop a regional resource information data base. This model is particularly noteworthy because the study area crosses an international boundary and United States agencies have also committed funds to the project.

National Task Force Recommendation 1.6

Special emphasis is required on research into and promotion of waste disposal and recycling, as well as environmental clean-up and enhancement technologies and techniques.

The Province of Nova Scotia has promoted, and will continue to promote, environmentally sound waste management practices. In 1988, the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation was established with a specific mandate to

increase public awareness and education on sound conservation and waste management practices. One of the first initiatives taken to support the Foundation was the establishment of a Ministerial Task Force on Litter Abatement. This Task Force has examined not only program and legislation but recycling opportunities as well. In 1989, following the release of this Task Force's report and recommendations, the Province passed new Litter Abatement and Recycling Legislation.

The Province will also undertake an Environmental Enhancement Program to identify, prioritize and manage major enhancement projects such as water and sewer projects and harbour clean-ups. It is further expected that this new program, which will be financed initially with \$50 million over five years, will support the development of an emerging environmental industries sector in this province.

As well, it is expected that further waste management and recycling enhancement and research opportunities in the field of natural resource development will be identified and promoted through the Nova Scotia conservation strategy.

National Task Force Recommendation 1.7

More research is needed on the concept of sustainable economic development and the linkages between economic development and the environment so that we can better understand those linkages and apply data and information to make better decisions.

The Province will support applied research in this area through initiatives such as promotion of research on the forestry/wildlife interface and the environmental impacts of various forestry operations as enunciated in the new Forest Policy, and negotiation of a Canada-Nova Scotia subsidiary agreement on sustainable development.

The Province of Nova Scotia will support efforts to

promote Nova Scotia as the location for an Atlantic Centre for Sustainable Development. By focusing on resource sustainability within the marine environment and, more specifically, coastal environments such a Centre would build upon existing regional interests and strengths in the fields of education, research and resource development.

National Task Force Recommendation 1.8

Specific projects demonstrating environment-economy integration (projects exemplificateurs) should be developed and implemented, with multisectoral involvement, in every province/territory and at the national level.

One of the principle tasks of the Nova Scotia Round Table will be the identification of demonstration projects that may be pursued by government, industry and non-government organizations. The Province of Nova Scotia will respond to recommendations of the Round Table to support appropriate demonstration projects.

National Task Force Recommendation 1.9

Outstanding work on environment-economy integration and environmental excellence should be recognized by awards. The proposed Round Tables should make these awards annually. The Round Table should also identify projects which successfully integrate environment and economic development, and communicate these projects to the public.

Public awareness of successful initiatives demonstrating environment-economy integration will do much to foster acceptance and support for the principles enunciated in the National Task Force Report. The Nova Scotia Round Table will select individuals or groups for special awards for outstanding achievement in the area of environment-economy as part of the annual awards made by the Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council. These awards will be designed to serve as a meaningful incentive for continued work in this area.

IV. LEADERSHIP

National Task Force Recommendation 2.1

The First Ministers must assume an overall leadership role and demonstrate a commitment to environment-economy integration by:

- **Directing that cabinet documents and major government economic development documents demonstrate that they are economically and environmentally sound and therefore sustainable.**

The Province of Nova Scotia concurs that the environmental significance of major policy and economic development initiatives should be identified before being reviewed in Cabinet. Submissions to Cabinet will include a provision to note both the immediate and long-term environmental implications of major economic initiatives.

- **Discussing environment-economy integration at First Ministers' Conference.**

Integration of environment and economy was on the 1987 agenda of the First Ministers' Conference. The Province of Nova Scotia will continue to support discussion and follow-up action on this subject at First Ministers' Conferences.

- **Ensuring that all levels and departments of government establish consultation processes which encourage and facilitate public involvement and influence in policy making and planning processes.**

As indicated in the provincial response to Recommendation 1.2, it is the acknowledged policy of the Nova Scotia government to encourage and enhance public involvement in policy-making. New measures to promote public participation specifically for the encouragement of environment-economy integration will be examined by the Nova Scotia Round Table.

- **Establishing formal mechanisms to hold Ministers and their departments accountable for promoting environmentally economic development.**

The new Environmental Assessment Act will provide a formal mechanism for promoting environmentally sound economic development. As a further measure, the Nova

Scotia Round Table will provide a year-end review of government progress in fostering the application of sustainable development practices and principles in the province.

- **Developing a code of ethics and principles, including principles of prior notification and consultation, which will provide guidance on the management of environmental matters among governments in Canada.**

The Nova Scotia government will continue to work through CCREM to develop procedures for the promotion of prior consultation among governments on environmental matters and related new policy and legislation development.

National Task Force Recommendation 2.2

Environment Ministers should be members of key economic development and priorities and planning committees of cabinet, or be closely associated, by appropriate mechanisms, with these committees.

The Province of Nova Scotia has placed the Minister of the Environment on the Economic Planning and Development Committee of Cabinet.

National Task Force Recommendation 2.3

Environment Ministers, through CCREM, should continue their work towards the harmonization of environmental standards and legislation and the streamlining of processes such as environmental assessment across Canada.

The Department of the Environment will continue to allocate staff resources for CCREM sponsored initiatives to achieve compatibility of environmental protection measures and standards across Canada.

National Task Force Recommendation 2.4

All Ministers must become directly responsible and accountable for the environmental and economic consequences of their policies, legislation and programs. This can be accomplished in part by the following activities and mechanisms:

Initiatives proposed under this recommendation by the Task Force have been largely addressed by the provincial response to previous recommendations. However, one suggested that was not previously addressed is:

- **Ensuring that all government programs which give funding and guarantees to industry are conditional on meeting environmental standards.**

Under existing regulatory and resource management systems all industrial initiatives, irrespective of the funding source, are subject to the normal permitting and review requirements of the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment. As further support for this regulatory control, the Province will ensure that all industrial funding agencies incorporate environmental considerations into their evaluations for program assistance.

As a further initiative, the Province will ensure that where appropriate all new or renegotiated federal-provincial subsidiary agreements include provisions to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of economic development programs.

National Task Force Recommendations 2.5 through 2.13

Given that these recommendations in the National Task Force Report are directed to industry it would be inappropriate for the Government of Nova Scotia to respond to each of these specifically. The Province will encourage Voluntary Planning, through its newly established Environment and Economy Sector, to promote or initiate action for each of the recommendations directed specifically to the private sector as appropriate to the Nova Scotia context.

V. NOVA SCOTIA ROUND TABLE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

National Task Force Recommendation 3.1

Each province and territory should form a multisectoral Round Table on Environment and Economy to bring existing organizations together to cooperate on environment-economy integration at the provincial and territorial levels.

The Province has established the Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Economy to promote environmentally sustainable economic development in Nova Scotia.

The primary function of this committee is to advise the Premier of Nova Scotia on matters concerning environment-economy integration and the promotion of sustainable development to ensure that the people of Nova Scotia enjoy a healthy environment and reasonable economic opportunities, now and in the future.

Membership in the Nova Scotia Round Table is composed of senior decision-makers from industry, government, academia, labour and environmental organizations across the province. The Round Table is chaired by the Minister of the Department of the Environment with a vice chairperson appointed from the non-government members. Members have initially been appointed for a one-year term, although it is intended that the Round Table will

operate as a permanent forum to provide an ongoing mechanism for action and discussion on environment-economy integration in Nova Scotia.

Beyond this general mandate the following specific tasks have been assigned to Nova Scotia's Round Table:

- I. To monitor implementation of Nova Scotia's Action Plan in response to the recommendations of the National Task Force Report on Environment and Economy, and to review the Action Plan periodically to ensure that the principles of environment and economy integration continue to be applied in the future.
- II. To promote and co-ordinate the development of a provincial conservation strategy based on consultation among government, industry, labour, and other interest groups and the general public and monitor its implementation.
- III. To promote public awareness and understanding of the linkages between the environment and the economy by developing a communications strategy. One element of the strategy will include environmental excellence awards and promotion of demonstration projects.
- IV. To liaise with other provincial Round Tables and the National Round Table.

VI. CONSERVATION STRATEGY

National Task Force Recommendation 4.1

Provincial and territorial governments should assume responsibility for the coordination and development of conservation strategies in their jurisdictions.

The National Task Force urges all jurisdictions to prepare a conservation strategy by 1992, and the Province of Nova Scotia is committed to meeting this target. The conservation strategy will consider many of the Task Force recommendations dealing with informed decision-making and leadership responsibilities that require the sort of detailed study that the conservation strategy preparation process affords. Accordingly, the Province of Nova Scotia has identified the development of a conservation strategy as a major initiative for the government over the next four years.

In undertaking this initiative the Province will ensure that the conservation strategy meets the following principles and objectives set out in the National Task Force Report:

- I. The conservation strategy should be viewed as a statement of government policy to ensure that our renewable resource base is sustained for future utilization, and that our non-renewable resources are managed in a manner which is sensitive to environmental considerations. Environmental restoration and protection, resource conservation and economic development should be considered together, not in isolation.
- II. The conservation strategy should evolve from a multipar-tite consultation and decision making process with all relevant interests involved throughout the entire strategy development process.
- III. The conservation strategy initiative should be managed as a cooperative consensus-seeking process. Accordingly it should be designed to share knowledge and perspectives in order to develop common goals and agreements for action in as many areas as possible.
- IV. The Round Table on Environment and Economy should play a key role in overseeing and guiding the process.

A proposed management structure and work plan for the preparation of Nova Scotia's conservative strategy are

provided in Appendix 1.

National Task Force Recommendation 4.2

CCREM, in consultation with industry and non-government organizations, should prepare a compendium of Canadian experiences in developing conservation strategies by September 1988.

The Department of the Environment has contributed to the preparation of this compendium and will ensure that it is available for distribution within the province.

National Task Force Recommendation 4.3

In the next two years, provincial and territorial governments should organize workshops and seminars on conservation strategies, with progress to be reviewed at a major National Conference on Sustainable Development in 1989 or 1990.

The Nova Scotia Government will sponsor a series of seminars and workshops throughout Nova Scotia through the conservation strategy process. As the initial step in this consultation process, the Nova Scotia Government in cooperation with industry and public interest groups hosted a provincial conference on sustainable economic development in October of 1989. It is expected that by the end of 1990 consultation will be well advanced and a report on progress in Nova Scotia will be available for the proposed national conference.

National Task Force Recommendation 4.4

Every province and territory should have a conservation strategy in place by 1992. A national strategy should be prepared which integrates the provincial and territorial strategies and links them to the international scene.

The target for completion of a conservation strategy for Nova Scotia is 1992, although timing may be adjusted to ensure meaningful public input. The Province of Nova Scotia will cooperate with efforts to integrate provincial and territorial strategies subsequent to their development within each jurisdiction.

National Task Force Recommendation 4.5

Non-government organizations and industry should:

- **Participate in the planning, design and implementation of the public involvement component of developing conservation strategies.**
- **Conduct and participate in workshops, seminars and annual meetings focusing on components of the conservation strategy appropriate to their organizations.**
- **Be prepared to develop briefs or discussion papers about specific aspects of sustainable development, as part of policy development processes.**

The preparation of a conservation strategy inevitably involves the issue of competing interests in resource use. Accordingly, it is recognized that broadly-based consultation will be needed if the conservation strategy is to have wide support and to be effectively implemented. The Province of Nova Scotia has an excellent record of private sector involvement in policy development processes, and will continue to pursue this approach in the preparation of the conservation strategy. Because Voluntary Planning is considered to provide a particularly effective vehicle for multipartite coordination, the Province of Nova Scotia will seek the support and involvement of this organization in developing its conservation strategy.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION

National Task Force Recommendation 6.1

CCREM, in cooperation with the Task Force and the proposed Round Table, should design and implement a major communications/public participation program to promote understanding and initiate a national dialogue on the importance of environment-economy integration.

The Province of Nova Scotia will participate in the proposed National Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Quebec in 1991.

A program of increasing awareness of environment-economy integration opportunities will be incorporated into the process of preparing a Nova Scotia conservation strategy. One of the explicit objectives of the process will be to develop a better understanding of the principle of sustainable development.

National Task Force Recommendation 6.2

CCREM members, in concert with education ministers and the Round Tables, should design an action plan to substantially upgrade environmental education.

The Province of Nova Scotia will promote discussion within the Council of Ministers of Education in Canada on

measures and approaches to develop shared initiatives for enhancing environmental education.

Environmental education in Nova Scotia is currently included in various grade levels and several subjects within the public school program. To further enhance this component of the school curriculum, the Department of Education will examine and evaluate the current role of environmental and sustainable development education within the province. This assessment will be conducted in close consultation with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, Nova Scotia School Boards Association, Nova Scotia Home and School Association and the Round Table on Environment and Economy.

The Deputy Ministers' Land Use Policy Committee will also complete an inventory of relevant public awareness programs currently being carried out by departments involved in environmental protection and resource management.

The Province of Nova Scotia will also request the private sector, through the Land Resources and Co-ordinating Council (LRCC) of Voluntary Planning, to provide advice on a proposed environmental awareness program in this area. LRCC has initiated several successful environmental awareness and education projects in the past and has considerable expertise to offer in this area.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The Province of Nova Scotia is committed to strengthening the link between environmental and economic decision-making. Nova Scotians in all walks of life must become increasingly sensitive to the impact their actions have on the environment. In some areas, this awareness is

already well developed. The implementation of this Action Plan must not only strengthen these existing initiatives, but must also move us into an era of improved decision-making that will ensure a healthy environment and prosperous economy to support both present and future generations.

APPENDIX I

CONSERVATION STRATEGY PROCESS

Conservation strategies were seen by the National Task Force on Environment and Economy as "blueprints for sustainable development" within the renewable resource sector. In preparing a conservation strategy for Nova Scotia the Province recognizes that any improvement to our resource management systems must be grounded in our present institutions and processes. The conservation strategy, therefore has to address existing policies, programs, institutional arrangements and structures before innovative suggestions for improvements can be made. In order to improve a system, those affected- the public, industry, and government at all levels- must be involved in the process to reach the consensus necessary for agreement on goals, principles and standards. The following process has been designed to achieve this informed consensus.

Implementation Steps

1. Authorization and allocation of necessary resources

Responsibility for the conservation strategy process will be assigned to the Nova Scotia Round Table on Environment and Economy to ensure effective management and co-ordination of the process, which will involve input from departments, the private sector and general public.

Funding will be designated (within the Department of the Environment's budget) and staff resources assigned within the line departments and the LUPC Secretariat for research, workshops and publications.

2. Establishment of a management committee

A project co-ordinator will be appointed within Department of the Environment and a conservation strategy management committee formed that includes representatives from the Round Table, Voluntary Planning, the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment and other relevant departments.

3. Preparation of mission and issue statements.

The first task of the management committee will be the preparation of two documents: the first, detailing the proposed purpose of the conservation strategy, and second outlining major problems or issues of concern to promote discussion. These discussion documents will take particular note of policies and programs already in place or underway that will complement a provincial conservation strategy and provide a starting point for its development. These policies and programs include the White Paper on Economic Development; the Forestry, Parks and Wildlife Policies; the Report of the Minister's Task Force on Hazardous Waste; work underway on the development of provincial land use policies; and a proposed soil conservation strategy.

4. Public Consultation

The Management committee will solicit the views of interested groups and the public-at-large on the discussion papers primarily through the mechanisms of workshops. Additional papers on issues raised during the consultation process may be prepared.

The results of workshops and other forms of public involvement will be summarized and combined with other background reports as required to form the basis of a draft conservation strategy.

5. Review draft strategy and submit recommended strategy to government

The management committee will distribute the draft conservation strategy to the public and relevant groups for comment (possibly through Voluntary Planning).

The management committee will revise the conservation strategy and present its recommended strategy to the Round Table for review prior to submission to Cabinet.

Proposed Implementation Schedule

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|----------------------------|---|
| Phase 1(1989-1990) | Preparation of two initial discussion papers on goals and issues. Public participation in workshops. |
| Phase 2 (1990-1991) | Assessment of workshop results; preparation of issue-orientated discussion papers and consultation. |
| Phase 3 (1991-1992) | Prepare and distribute draft conservation strategy for public comment.
Preparation of recommended conservation strategy and submission to Cabinet. |